GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:451
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY
B.K. PARTHASARATHI;P.R. KHUTE

Will the Minister of LAW , JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a National Law University;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also propose to close down all evening law college;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) the universities which have agreed to close down their evening law colleges;

(f) the arrangements being made for the students already getting law education; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to improve the standard of law education in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPNAY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITELY)

(a)&(b):A proposal to establish a National Law University in National Capital Regions (NCR)with its three National Centres in the Northern, Western and Eastern regions of the country on the pattern of the National Law School at Bangalore, with an enabling provision to create more such Centres, is under consideration of the Government.The matter has been taken up on the recommendation of the Special Subject Group on the Administrative and Legal Simplifications, constituted by the Prime Minister`s Council on Trade and Industry.

(c) &(d): the Bar council of India has amended Rules concerning three-year law course after graduation (i.e., Rule 2(1) in Part IV Section-B,Bar Council of India Rules) to provide that all law colleges which are exclusively running evening sessions shall switch over the `Day` session during the academic year 2000-2001, failing which they will not be entitled to approval of affiliation by the Council. The main reason for this is to bring improvement in legal education which is possible only through full time day colleges equipped with all necessary infrastructure and facilities. The details details thereof are annexed.

(e) &(f): As informed by the Bar Council of India, many evening Colleges have been closed down by the Colleges themselves and students were transferred to day courses.

(g):After revising the LL.B. curriculum by introducing a number of new subjects keeping in view the changing needs of the society, the Bar Council is insisting on law teaching institutions to have qualified full-time teachers to impart Legal Education effectively and also on prescribing percentage of attendance by law students. The Bar Council has also stressed the need for separating law faculties from other faculties and establish them as independent law colleges, so that Legal Education can be properly imparted. The Bar Council is regularly inspecting the law colleges and also requires them to furnish annual returns for scrutiny.After scrutinizing their annual returns, the Bar Council informs the law colleges about deficiencies found and asks them to take appropriate steps to remove the same in a time-bound manner.

ANNEXURE

MINISTRY OF LAW,JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.451 ANSWERED ON 23.8.2001

(i) Evening law colleges cannot impart legal education as prescribed under the rules of the Bar Council of India in view of the revision of curriculum recently carried out by the Bar Council of India.The revised curriculum prescribes 21 compulsory subjects, three optional subjects and four papers in practical training making a total of 28 subjects in the LL.B. Course.The evening colleges hardly function for two; to two and a half hour a day which is totally inadequate to impart legal education prescribed by the Bar Council of India under its rules.

(ii) the evening law colleges are mostly manned by part time teachers who are practising lawyers. These colleges do not have

sufficient number of qualified full-time teachers. Professional courses like LL.B cannot be imparted through part-time teachers alone.

(iii) Evening law colleges are conducted in colleges which are imparting courses in other disciplines and independent buildings are not available to law colleges with adequate infrastructural facilities.

(iv) Since the practical training has been revised and includes court visits and other aspects of practical training, evening colleges cannot do justice to such training as envisaged by the Bar Council of India.

(v) the majority of the students on the rolls of the evening colleges are employed persons who want to improve their qualifications for career advancement and want to enroll as advocate after retirement. Such students are not serious in their studies and this contribute to the lowering of standards of legal education. These are some of the reasons which prompted the Bar Council of India to ask the evening law colleges to convert themselves into full time day colleges.

(vi) Attendance requirement are rarely adhered to in the evening law colleges as majority of the students are employed